



CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AGREEMENT

NEGOTIATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, SLUDGE, DEBRIS, AND WATER FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S K EAST AND K WEST BASINS.

EDMC

The Washington State Department of Ecology, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U. S. Department of Energy, (the parties) have concluded the negotiation of commitments for the removal of K East and K West basin contents (including spent nuclear fuel, sludge, debris, and water). Tentative agreement has been reached and a package of proposed changes to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Agreement) has been developed and found mutually acceptable for submittal to the Agency Principal Signatories. These proposed changes are attached to this Conclusion of Negotiations Agreement.

An earlier version of this package was submitted to public comment from June 9, 1997, to July 23, 1997. The parties agree that changes to this earlier package are substantive enough to warrant an additional public review and comment opportunity. It is the parties' intent to submit this revised tentative agreement to a 45-day public comment period to run from approximately March 23, 1998 to May 8, 1998. Specific public comment period dates will be coordinated to ensure tribal and Hanford Advisory Board opportunity for review and comment. Final approval of this tentative agreement, and modifications to the Agreement itself are expected to occur on or about July 15, 1998.

Contingent upon approval of the parties' Agreement In Principle by the Signatories, and upon consideration and resolution of any issues raised during the public comment period, it is the parties' intent to approve these changes and incorporate them into the Agreement.

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